

**City of Tifton
Council Retreat
June 24, 2018
9:30 AM
Andaz Savannah**

Attendees

Mayor Julie Smith

Vice Mayor Wes Ehlers

Council Member Jack Folk

Council Member Frank Sayles

Council Member Johnny Terrell

Pete Pyrzenski, City Manager

Jessica White, City Clerk

Rob Wilmot, City Attorney (via phone)

Mayor Julie Smith called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Report from the Solid Waste Committee

Council Member Frank Sayles mentioned the solid waste committee met again last week and discussed the continued issues with garbage pickup. Mr. Sayles mentioned the city sent a letter of the garbage issues to Golden Environmental in November 2017 and the issues are continuing. Council agreed the number one complaint they have from residents is garbage pickup. Issues identified were bulk pickup, curbside yard debris pickup, and Golden not following up on customer complaints. Mr. Rob Wilmot will review the garbage agreement and determine options the City can consider for resolving the complaints.

Discussion on the Economic Development Department

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the adopted budget included creating a position to grow and market development outside of the Main Street and Industrial Park areas. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the Main Street program has greatly improved the downtown area and we need someone to fulfill the need in Tifton for continuing development in the business district outside of downtown. Mayor Smith mentioned this person could also oversee the Matt Wilson Redevelopment and work to improve the overall community and neighborhoods. Mayor Smith suggested gathering information from other communities on how their Community/Economic Development Department is structured. After a brief discussion, Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned he would gather more details on the department and bring it back for review.

Service Delivery Topics and Timeline

Mr. Pyrzenski suggested having the first service delivery meeting with the County in July 2018 and add service delivery to each agenda for monthly updates until completed. Council briefly discussed, and suggested the City and County Managers meet and develop a timeline and plan for discussing the remaining issues.

Budget Discussion

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the City and County will be adopting the millage rate in July. Because of the recently changes in the updated service delivery the County's Special Tax District should increase. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the City has requested a copy of the County's proposed budget for FY2019 and hopefully after reviewing we will get some clarification. Council held a discussion on tax equity and the importance of ensuring the City residents are not over paying for services.

Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned the City is also starting to get calls in reference to mosquito control, and asked for Council's guidance on the issue. After discussion, the Council recommended communicating our plans for implementing mosquito control and distributing tablets in the waterways. Mr. Pyrzenski mentioned he would have this information prepared by Morgan and get it out quickly. Mr. Pyrzenski also mentioned the Ridge Avenue building and island improvements are underway and as soon as that project is complete, they will begin working on constructing a walking track at the park.

Mayor & Council Comments

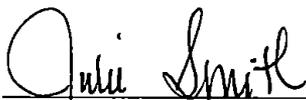
Mayor Smith: Mayor Smith suggested the Council set up a round table discussion at the workshops and also add Council comments to our meeting agenda.

Vice Mayor Ehlers: Vice Mayor Ehlers suggested the City move the enterprise and opportunity zones, if needed, to include the Matt Wilson Redevelopment Area and also reviewing the internal controls policy since the City is looking at making changes in the banking services.

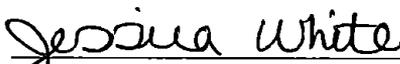
Council Member Sayles: Mr. Sayles suggested updating the street signs in the historical district, and changing the sign color to brown to distinguish the district. Mr. Sayles also mentioned in his training class he learned that we could update our local option sales tax if the service delivery had significant changes, and suggested the City consider the option since we have changes.

Council Member Terrell: Mr. Terrell requested additional police presences in his district. He mentioned this time of year he always sees an increase in theft and asked that the police department take a community policing approach to get familiar with the residents in the area. He mentioned a lot of the issues are in the alleys and requested the city patrol the alleys.

Council Member Folk: Mr. Folk asked for the City Manager to research the police calls to Peterson Apartments after dark. He also mentioned we need to look into doing something about kids driving golf carts on city streets before an accident occurs. Mr. Folk also requested a list of current board members and their term limits. Ms. White mentioned she is only aware of the Library Board having term limits, but she will research and get this information out. He also asked that the City review the Tax Commissioner Contract and check on how the funding is distributed for collecting the City's property taxes.



Julie Smith, Mayor



Jessica White, Clerk